



# **Report on Campus Climate and Sexual Violence at Maryland Colleges and Universities**

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## **University of Maryland College Park (UMD)**

### **Survey Administration**

#### **What survey instrument was used in the 2020-2022 cycle? How was it developed or obtained?**

The University of Maryland utilized the Student Environment and Experiences Survey (SEES) for the 2020-2022 cycle. This instrument was developed by the Office of Civil Rights and Sexual Misconduct (OCRSM) in conjunction with the Office of Planning and Evaluation at the University of Maryland School of Public Health. The assessment is comprised of items adapted from other campus climate surveys and measures developed specifically for UMD.

#### **Who received the survey and how did the institution select those participants?**

In April 2022, a random sample of 10,000 full-time undergraduate students between the ages of 18 and 25 were selected by the University Registrar's office to receive a personalized email invitation to complete the online survey containing a unique link. The survey was anonymous because no linkage was made between the students email addresses and their responses. A maximum of three email reminders were sent to students; once a student completed the survey, they did not receive any additional reminders.

#### **How did the institution conduct the survey?**

Data were collected via online survey during a two-week interval in April 2022.

#### **How was it administered and what was the rate of response among those who could have responded (e.g., if you surveyed only undergraduates, how many [and what percentage of undergraduates responded)?**

The 10-minute survey was administered online via the Qualtrics® survey platform. A total of 2,100 students consented to participate and submitted a response. After accounting for bounced emails and ineligible responses (i.e., the student was no longer full-time), the response rate was 21.1% (2,100/9,976).

#### **What steps were taken to encourage responses from the surveyed population?**

Modest compensation was offered to the first 3,000 participants to complete the survey, in the form of a \$10 credit redeemable at campus dining services. Promotional strategies included posts on social media, such as Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook. During Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) program activities, attendees were encouraged to complete the SEES. Each Resident Assistant (RA) received promotional materials to post on their respective floors. Every dining and convenience shop on campus posted promotional materials. Lastly, *Maryland Today*, an online publication produced by the Office of Strategic Communications featured an article on SEES to promote awareness and survey promotion.

**How does the respondent population compare to the general population on campus (e.g., race and ethnicity, gender, age, on-campus/off-campus residents)?**

| <b>Table 1. Comparison of demographic characteristics of the survey sample with aggregate data on undergraduates</b> |                         |                                     |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                      | <b>SEES 2022 Sample</b> | <b>All Full-time Undergraduates</b> |
| <b>Gender</b>                                                                                                        |                         |                                     |
| Male                                                                                                                 | 40.0%                   | 50.4%                               |
| Female                                                                                                               | 58.4%                   | 49.6%                               |
| Transgender, Genderqueer, Nonbinary, or another Gender Identity                                                      | 1.6%                    | --*                                 |
| <b>Race/ethnicity</b>                                                                                                |                         |                                     |
| White, non-Hispanic                                                                                                  | 49.0%                   | 48.2%                               |
| Asian, non-Hispanic                                                                                                  | 29.1%                   | 22.9%                               |
| Black or African American, non-Hispanic                                                                              | 8.5%                    | 12.9%                               |
| Hispanic/Latino                                                                                                      | 7.0%                    | 10.8%                               |
| Two or More Races                                                                                                    | 4.9%                    | 5.2%                                |
| Other                                                                                                                | 1.5%                    | 0.2%                                |

\*The university does not collect official data on students identifying as transgender, genderqueer, non-binary, or another gender identity.

**What changes to the survey administration were made since the last survey cycle, if any?**  
 The survey was shortened and, in collaboration with the LGBTQ+ Equity Center under the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, revisions were made to the language throughout to make the survey more inclusive.

### **Perceptions of Safety and General Campus Climate**

**How do respondents perceive the safety of the campus and the general campus climate?**

#### **General Campus Climate**

Students were asked about the quality of their relationships with one another, administrators, and faculty; overall, most students indicated the quality of these relationships were positive. The proportion of students who rated relationships as positive was 79.1% (other students), 74.2% (faculty members), and 59.1% (administrative personnel and offices).

#### **Safety**

Half of students (48.6%) agreed with the statement “UMD does enough to protect the safety of students,” while 23.4% were undecided and 27.9% disagreed. When asked to respond to the statement “Sexual assault is a problem at UMD,” 60.3% agreed, 10.9% disagreed, and 28.8% were undecided.

#### **Belonging**

80.1% of students agreed with the statement, “I feel I am a part of this university,” which 14.7% were undecided and 5.2% disagreed.

### **How have these perceptions changed since the last survey administration?**

Overall, these perceptions were stable since the last survey administration. The only significant change was seen in response to the statement “Sexual assault is a problem at UMD.” In 2020, 38.9% agreed, while 43.5% were undecided and 10.9% disagreed. In 2022, the proportion who agreed increased to 60.3%. The proportion who was undecided and disagreed declined to 28.8% and 10.9%, respectively. Change in other campus climate and safety items was minimal (i.e., all increased or decreased less than 2 percentage points).

### **Perceptions of Institution’s Readiness and Ability to Address Issues of Sexual Assault**

#### **How do respondents perceive the institution’s readiness and ability to address issues of sexual assault and sexual violence in such areas as:**

##### **a. Training and education**

Students were asked questions about their exposure to information about sexual assault and their involvement with sexual assault prevention activities during the current academic year. 36.0% had attended a bystander workshop, and 19.8% had attended a presentation about sexual assault given to a student organization. Approximately one-quarter of students (22.7%) had attended a presentation about sexual assault, dating violence, or stalking. About one-third (31.7%) had discussions about sexual assault in class. The majority of students had seen posters about sexual assault (66.2%), and 26.7% had visited a UMD website with sexual assault information and 27.3% had read a report about sexual violence rates at UMD. In terms of content, how to report sexual assault was most common type of information received at UMD (53.6% of students), followed by the definition of sexual assault (49.0%) and where to get help if someone you know is sexually assaulted (49.0%). Thirty percent (30.7%) of students reported that they had received information about Title IX protections. Approximately one-third of students (31.6%) had not received any information about sexual assault from UMD during the current academic year.

##### **b. Support for persons reporting sexual assault and other sexual misconduct**

The majority of students said that UMD would maintain the privacy of the person making a sexual assault report (72.7%) and would offer resources to the person making the report (72.7%). Approximately half (52.5%) said it was likely that UMD would support a student who was making a sexual assault report; 14.4% said it was unlikely, while 33.0% were undecided/didn’t know.

##### **c. The administrators responsible for investigating misconduct**

About half of students believed that UMD would take a sexual assault report seriously (53.6%), while slightly fewer said UMD would likely handle the report fairly (42.2%) and would conduct a fair, prompt, and impartial investigation into the report (39.7%). A similar proportion agreed that the University of Maryland Police Department (UMPD) takes student crime reports seriously (41.6%), and 28.2% agreed that UMPD responds

effectively to sexual assault. Approximately one-quarter to one-third of students were undecided for these items.

**How have these perceptions changed since the last survey administration?**

The percent of students who attended a presentation about bystander intervention decreased slightly, from 44.1% in 2020 to 36.0%. Attending other types of presentations (e.g., attending a presentation about sexual assault, dating violence, or stalking) remained stable from 2020 to 2022. The proportion who saw posters about sexual assault or discussed sexual assault in class was also unchanged. In 2022, 27.3% reported reading a report about sexual assault at UMD, compared to 18.6% in 2020.

Perceptions of the university's response to reports of sexual assault were slightly less positive in 2022 than 2020. For example, decreases were seen in the percent of students who believed that UMD would conduct a fair, prompt, and impartial investigation (48.4% to 41.6%), that UMD would handle the report fairly (53.6% to 42.2%), and that UMD would take the report seriously (63.9% to 53.6%). Similar decreases were seen for the UMPD's responses. In 2022, 28.2% agreed that UMPD responds effectively to sexual assault, compared with 37.3% in 2020.

**Institutional Analysis and Action Steps**

**What relationship do you see between the changes in the incident data over the past three cycles and the trends you are finding in the survey data?**

Definitive conclusions are difficult to make given the historical timeframe in question due to the pandemic (2020-2022), unknown incident types to classify as SAI or SAII, and the complete overhaul of institutional policy and procedures per the 2020 Title IX Regulations. What is statistically significant is that there was decrease in the number of reported 'Other Sexual Misconduct' incident types over the past three reporting cycles, but any meaningful trends have remained stable.

**What have been the results of changes implemented since the last survey cycle?**

Instituting major changes to sexual misconduct prevention had been affected by the pandemic; however, UMD staff swiftly transitioned to the creation of online programming with the inclusion of community partners such as the House of Ruth and the Maryland Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MCASA).

In November 2021 the Sexual Assault Prevention Committee (SAPC) launched an optional second year online training through EVERFI.

The Office of Civil Rights and Sexual Misconduct (OCRSM) initiated a collaborative relationship with the national One Love Foundation in Fall 2020 to enhance prevention programming on campus which subsequently lead to an introduction to the founding members of UMD One Love Club. One Love's mission is achieved via *interactive, conversation-based workshops* that provide vocabulary to deconstruct real-life scenarios and encourage participants to reflect on and implement healthy relationship behaviors in their everyday lives.

Presently, OCRSM serves in an advisory capacity to UMD One Love Club where there is partnership on the delivery of workshops to build awareness around healthy and unhealthy relationships. Both entities serve to build a culture changing program to engage in sustainable prevention efforts on campus.

**What activities, services, programs, or other results have arisen from what was learned from the survey results?**

The University is involved in a number of activities with regards to sexual misconduct preventive programming. What follows is a snapshot of the prevention programs offered at UMD.

**Sexual Assault Prevention Committee (SAPC)**

The University of Maryland is in a continuous process to link the survey results to more targeted intervention approaches. The Sexual Assault Prevention Committee (SAPC) is tasked with instituting a data-driven approach for the coordination of the University's prevention plan. SAPC members comprise members representing Campus Advocates Respond and Educate to Stop Violence (CARE), Athletics, Resident Life, Office of Civil Rights and Sexual Misconduct (OCRSM), Department of Fraternity and Sorority Life (DFSL), Office of Postdoctoral Affairs (Graduate School), Office of Faculty Affair (Provost's Office), Student Orientation and Transition, Strategic Communications, Resident Life, College of Education, School of Public Health, College of Computer, Mathematical, and Natural Sciences, Title IX Advisory Board (TIXAB), and Preventing Sexual Assault (PSA). SAPC launched the Student Leader Summit Pilot in Fall 2021. The pilot covered bystander intervention, responding to a disclosure, referral to resources, Stages of Change, and ways to facilitate conversations around the topic of power-based violence prevention.

**Raise Your Voice**

Raise Your Voice (RYV) is a University wide sexual assault prevention and awareness campaign. Raising your voice shows that you value respect and healthy relationships for yourself, your fellow Terps, and others in all aspects of life. The entire campus community is encouraged to make a personal commitment to help prevent sexual assault and sexual misconduct and be a part of the solution. In March 2022, SAPC successfully relaunched the RYV campaign (as a result of low activity during the pandemic) to re-emphasize consistent messaging and ensure all members of the campus community are informed of expectations and resources.

Raise Your Voice events included in 2019-2021: Your Voice Matters Trivia, Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM) Programming-including Restorative Yoga, Charcuterie Board Design Class, and a Virtual Panel on Sexual Assault Prevention.

In 2021-2022, for Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM) CARE Outreach and SAPC hosted CARE to Stop Violence's Annual Purple Lights Night and for SAAM: SAPC partnered with RecWell to host Raise Your Voice: Sunset Yoga.

## **Department of Fraternity and Sorority Life (DFSL)**

DFSL has several initiatives and sustained actions to help raise awareness, increase education, and promote the prevention of power-based violence, including:

- Each semester, between 10-15 chapters participate in the Ten Terp Plan (TTP) for Sexual Assault Prevention (SAP) program. Participants from each chapter meet weekly for eight weeks with a trained facilitator. The purpose of the TTP/SAP is to raise awareness around the issue of sexual assault and power-based violence within a specific fraternity or sorority. Topics include:
  - Bystander intervention;
  - Rape culture and rape myths;
  - Healthy/unhealthy behaviors within relationships;
  - Sexual objectification, hyper-masculinity and hyper-femininity;
  - The effect of sexual assault on survivors and connecting survivors to resources.
- All recognized fraternities and sororities are required to host a sexual assault prevention program each year. Chapters submit an online evaluation of the program that is then approved by a member of our staff. In 2020-2021, 94% of chapters completed this requirement, with an estimated attendance of more than 3,200 students. Chapters not completing this expectation were placed on probationary recognition and received additional sanctions for the upcoming year.
- Chapters wishing to participate in Homecoming and Spring Fest are required to host matchup meetings to discuss sexual assault prevention and bystander intervention (75% of each chapter must attend).
- Each chapter is required to have a Chapter Liaison, who receives a 2-hour training on rape culture, power-based violence, bystander intervention, ways to appropriately respond to victim disclosure, and campus resources.
- DFSL has employed a graduate assistant (50% FTE) since 2008 who coordinates sexual assault prevention efforts within fraternity and sorority life.
  - The graduate assistant supervises two to four interns each semester who are tasked with creating new or improving existing sexual violence prevention programming. Previously this has included redesigning the DFSL SAP website, creating shareable social media posts for chapters to utilize, and creating presentations or activities for fraternity and sorority students.
  - The graduate assistant and interns present individual chapter workshops as requested, as well as facilitating continued training for Chapter Liaisons.
  - Staff and SAP Interns have assisted campus partners and student organizations in implementation of their events, including CARE's Clothesline Project, Safe Spring Break in collaboration with the University Health Center, and hosting panels during Preventing Sexual Assault (PSA) Occupy McKeldin.

## **Counseling Center**

All students, including sexual assault survivors are welcome to access any of the Counseling Center's confidential mental health resources. These resources include urgent same day appointments with counselors and a 24/7 hotline after hours. Counselors meet with survivors to share additional resources on/off campus and evaluate their mental health needs to collaboratively determine and support their next steps. The Counseling Center has a specific therapy group (i.e., Hope and Healing) for women-identified sexual assault survivors.

## Campus Advocates Respond and Educate to Stop Violence (CARE)

Ongoing Training & Education Offerings from CARE:

- CARE Peers and Staff provide training to students, staff, and faculty. Trainings include:
  - CARE 101 Presentation: An overview of the CARE to Stop Violence Office and the Advocacy, Education and Outreach services offered to all Students, Faculty and Staff.
  - The C Word is Consent Workshop: This workshop uses discussion and exploration to deconstruct common rape myths, define consent, coercion, and victim-blaming.
  - Don't Turn Red Flags Pink Workshop: Audience members of this interactive workshop learn to define relationship violence, identify elements of power and control, and understand the cycle of violence.
  - Step UP! Workshop: Step UP! is an interactive workshop on bystander intervention; during this hour-long workshop participants learn to evaluate challenging situations and determine how to safely intervene using one of the 3D's (Direct, Distract, and Delegate).
- CARE annually hosts events such as Purple Lights Night, The Clothesline Project, and Take Back the Night as well as other programs such as CARE in Conversation and training as a Violence Intervention Ambassador throughout the school year.

## Office of Civil Rights & Sexual Misconduct (OCRSM)

The Office of Civil Rights & Sexual Misconduct (OCRSM) is a significant resource for the campus community at the University of Maryland. OCRSM is tasked with implementing and overseeing the University's compliance with, and enforcement of, the civil rights scheme of the United States as it applies to the University through the University of Maryland Policy and Procedures on Sexual Harassment and Other Sexual Misconduct. OCRSM offers training and other programs to enhance awareness of their reporting, rights and responsibilities, resources, and options for resolution. OCRSM develops and implements campus wide civil rights compliance training. In partnership with UM One Love, workshops were offered to student groups, committees, and departments. Topics included 10 signs of healthy and unhealthy relationships, Masculinity and Consent, Navigating Personal and Platonic Relationships using the 10 signs. UM One Love workshops were made available by request via the OCRSM website.

## What actions will the institution most likely take on the basis of the survey results?

The University is seeking both federal and private opportunities to increase dedicated personnel and a coordinated response in building a successful comprehensive sexual assault prevention plan. The Sexual Assault Prevention Committee (SAPC) will be developing the programming curriculum for third year and fourth year undergraduate student online training. Per the last survey cycle, each School and College developed College Action Plans to raise awareness about sexual misconduct prevention resources, reporting options, and reporting obligations of faculty and staff. A College Action Plan toolkit will be distributed to each college and school in coordination with Faculty Liaisons for full implementation.

We are exploring the possibility that the School of Public Health assist OCRSM with analyses of the incident report data for 2020-2022.

### **Prevalence of Sexual Assault and Other Sexual Misconduct**

#### **What are the rates of prevalence of sexual assault and other sexual misconduct found from the survey data?**

The prevalence of sexual assault is reported in Table 3. Non-consensual sexual intercourse or rape since coming to UMD was reported by 6.5% of students. The prevalence was higher among females (8.5%) and students identifying as another gender (12.9%) than males (3.3%).

Experiencing other types of sexual assault, such as non-consensual sexual contact, touching, or attempted rape, was more common, with a prevalence of 15.1%. Again, the prevalence was higher among females (20.7%) than males (6.1%) and was also elevated among students who identified as transgender, genderqueer, or another gender (38.7%).

Overall, the prevalence of experiencing any form of sexual assault was 16.5%: 22.2% among females, 38.7% among students who identified as genderqueer or another gender, and 7.3% among males.

**Table 3. Prevalence of Sexual Assault**

|                                                                   | <b>% of SEES 2022 Sample</b> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Sexual assault of any type</b>                                 |                              |
| Yes                                                               | 16.5%                        |
| No                                                                | 79.7%                        |
| Prefer not to say                                                 | 3.8%                         |
| <b>Non-consensual sexual intercourse or rape</b>                  |                              |
| Yes                                                               | 6.5%                         |
| No                                                                | 90.0%                        |
| Prefer not to say                                                 | 3.5%                         |
| <b>Non-consensual sexual contact, touching, or attempted rape</b> |                              |
| Yes                                                               | 15.1%                        |
| No                                                                | 81.8%                        |
| Prefer not to say                                                 | 3.1%                         |

Additionally, 11.7% of students had experienced sexual harassment since coming to UMD, and 6.8% had been in a relationship that was controlling or abusive. Both sexual harassment and relationship violence were more common among females and students who identified as transgender, genderqueer, or another gender than among males.

#### **How do these rates compare to the incident data collected and reported in the cycle?**

The survey data reveal stable trends from 2018 to 2022 with respect to who a student told about a sexual assault they experienced. However, incident data shows there was a decrease in the number of reported Other Sexual Misconduct types and an increase in Sexual Assault I and II incident types. The reasons for these differences are unclear. Further for several months during this reporting cycle, students were immersed in online learning and direct correlations between survey and incident data cannot be ascertained.

**Of those data collected from the survey, what are the rates of those who choose to report to the institution and those who choose not to? Of those who choose not to, what are the primary reasons given for not reporting the incident?**

Among those who experienced a sexual assault, 7.8% reported the assault to our Title IX office, a confidential resource provider on campus, or another person in a position of authority at UMD. Telling friends (74.1%) and roommates (26.7%) about the assault was more common, and 18.0% chose not to tell anyone. Reasons for not reporting are provided in Table 4 below. The most common reasons given were related to worrying about others' reaction (e.g., worrying they wouldn't think it was serious or important) and wanting to keep it private. Not knowing the reporting procedure on campus (8.7%), not thinking the school would do anything about the report (10.9%), and not thinking campus leadership would not solve problems (15.2%) were not widely cited as a reason.

**Table 4. Reasons for telling anyone about a sexual assault**

|                                                                                               | <b>% of students who didn't tell anyone about the assault</b> |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|
| Didn't think others would think it was serious/important/would understand                     | 65.2%                                                         |
| Is a private matter/wanted to deal with it on own                                             | 47.8%                                                         |
| Ashamed or embarrassed                                                                        | 37.0%                                                         |
| Didn't think what happened was serious enough to talk about                                   | 34.8%                                                         |
| Wanted to forget it happened                                                                  | 34.8%                                                         |
| Didn't want others to worry about me                                                          | 34.8%                                                         |
| Didn't have time to deal with it due to academics, work, etc.                                 | 32.6%                                                         |
| I thought nothing would be done                                                               | 32.6%                                                         |
| Fear of not being believed                                                                    | 23.9%                                                         |
| I thought I would be blamed for what happened                                                 | 19.6%                                                         |
| Had other things I needed to focus on and was concerned about (classes, work)                 | 15.2%                                                         |
| I did not feel the campus leadership would solve my problems                                  | 15.2%                                                         |
| Fear of retribution from the person who did it                                                | 10.9%                                                         |
| Didn't think the school would do anything about my report                                     | 10.9%                                                         |
| Didn't know reporting procedure on campus                                                     | 8.7%                                                          |
| Didn't want the person who did it to get in trouble                                           | 8.7%                                                          |
| Concerned others would find out                                                               | 8.7%                                                          |
| Feared I or another would be punished for infractions or violations such as underage drinking | 8.7%                                                          |
| I feared others would harass me or react negatively toward me                                 | 6.5%                                                          |
| Would feel like an admission of failure                                                       | 2.2%                                                          |
| Thought people would try to tell me what to do                                                | 2.2%                                                          |